

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments. Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regards as the invention. Claim 1 has been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to correct any perceived indefiniteness. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, along with its dependent claims 2-5, is in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112.

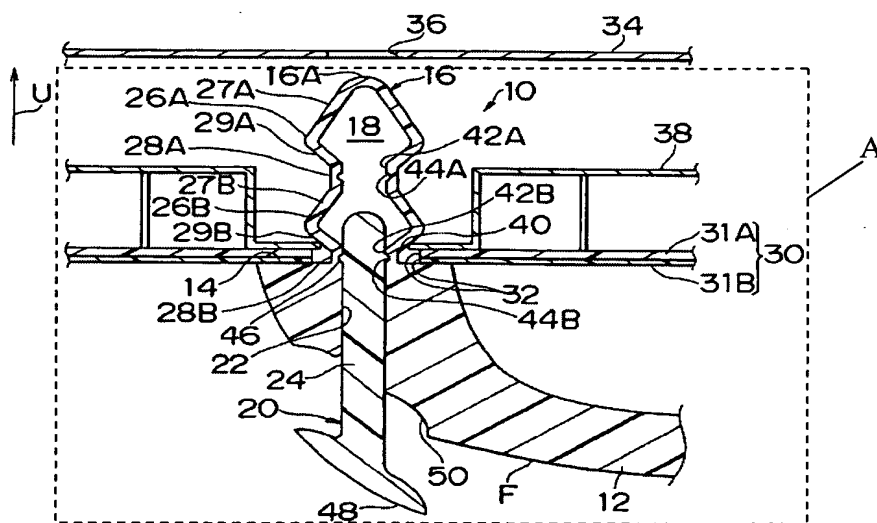
Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,415,478 (Watanabe). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 6 recites a module-structure comprising, *inter alia*, "an attachment member for fastening said interior accessory and said roof trim, said attachment member having a roof panel engaging portion, said attachment member being coupled with said bracket member and being movable relative to said bracket member to one position where said attachment member temporarily holds said interior accessory to said roof trim and bracket member during positioning of said module-structure relative to a roof panel and another position where said roof panel engaging portion of said attachment member protrudes from a back side of said bracket for engagement with a roof panel and fastening of said roof trim and accessory to said roof panel." Claim 6 further recites "an inserted body for insertion into the attachment member to lock said engaging portion to said roof panel."

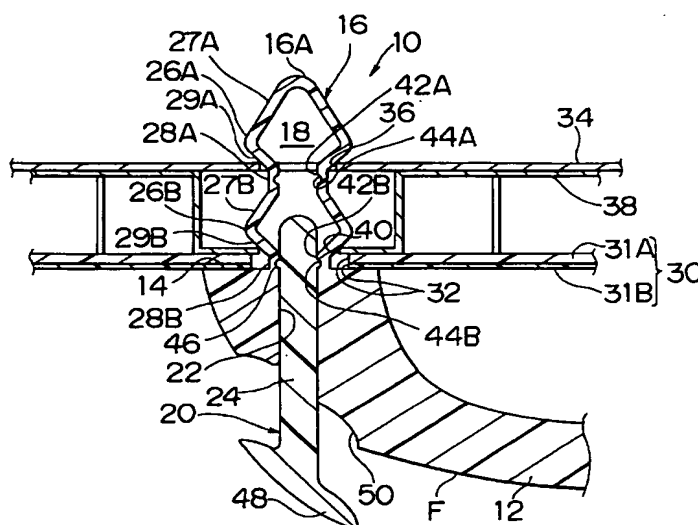
Independent claim 7 recites an attachment assembly comprising, *inter alia*, "an attachment member for insertion in and engagement with said bracket member, said attachment member being adapted to hold an interior accessory and roof trim to

said bracket member as an assembly, said attachment member having an engaging portion for engagement with a roof panel to fasten said assembly to said roof panel, said attachment member being engageable with said bracket member in a first relative position where said attachment member can hold an interior accessory and said interior roof trim together for mounting to a roof panel, and a second relative position where said engaging portion of said attachment member can engage with said roof panel to fasten an interior accessory and said roof trim to said roof panel.” Claim 7 further recites “an insertion body for insertion in the attachment member to lock said engaging portion to a roof panel.”

Watanabe relates to an assist grip attachment structure method. (Abstract). Watanabe discloses an assist grip 10 having a contractible member 16. As illustrated in FIG. 4 of Watanabe (reproduced below), the contractible member 16 of the assist grip 10 is inserted into (and through) the energy absorbent member 38, whereby the assist grip 10 and the energy absorbent member 38 form a single unit (labeled A (added by Applicants)). Col. 7, l. 57 through col. 8, l. 4. The attachment surface 14 of the grip body 12 abuts the ceiling base member 30; in this position, the contractible member is not “movable relative to said bracket member.”



Further, according to Watanabe, "the assist grip 10 thus assembled as a unit [unit A in FIG. 4] with the ceiling base member 30, and the EA member 28 [sic] is then attached to the vehicle body 34 . . . [by] forcing the contractible member 16 to pass through the attachment hole 36 in the body 34 . . . (in the direction as indicated by arrow U)" (see FIG. 4) resulting in the structure illustrated in FIG. 5 (reproduced below). Col. 8, ll. 12-17.



Watanabe fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 6. Specifically, Watanabe fails to teach or suggest an "attachment member having a roof panel engaging portion, said attachment member being coupled with said bracket member and being movable relative to said bracket member." As illustrated above, in FIGS. 4-5 of Watanabe, the contractible member 16 is not "movable relative to said bracket member." For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submits that claim 6 is allowable over Watanabe.

Similarly, Watanabe fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 7. Specifically, Watanabe fails to teach or suggest an "attachment member being

engageable with said bracket member in a *first relative position* where said attachment member can hold an interior accessory and said interior roof trim together for mounting to a roof panel, and a *second relative position* where said engaging portion of said attachment member can engage with said roof panel to fasten an interior accessory and said roof trim to said roof panel," as recited by claim 7. As illustrated above in FIGS. 4-5, the contractible member 16 has only one position in which it can be engaged with the EA member 38. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submits that claim 6 is allowable over Watanabe.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: April 13, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No.: 28,371

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorney for Applicants